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cont'd

a body portion; and
a projection portion extending from said body portion and into said opening,
wherein said projection portion directly contacts one of said annular flanges of said ring member.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicant has amended original claim 1 to better describe the claimed invention. Applicant is including a marked-up copy of amendments to the claims, with this responsive amendment. No new matter is added to the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. See, e.g., Appl'n, **Fig. 8**. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

REMARKS

1. Rejections

Claims 1, 2 , and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, as allegedly indefinite. Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA"). Moreover, claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly rendered obvious by AAPA in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,307,038 to Ishimaru. Applicant respectfully traverses.

2. 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2

Claims 1, 2 , and 4 stand rejected as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Applicant has amended original claim 1 in order to clarify that the electromagnetic assembly comprises a ring case, a coil bobbin, and a connector arrangement. The ring case comprises a first end having an opening formed therein, and a second end having an annular groove formed therein. Moreover, the coil bobbin is disposed in the annular groove, and the coil bobbin comprises a ring member. The ring member comprises a tubular spool with a pair of annular flanges projecting radially from the tubular spool. Further, the connector arrangement comprises a body portion, and a projection portion extending from the body portion

and into the opening. Specifically, the projection portion directly contacts one of the annular flanges of the ring member. See, e.g., Appl'n, Fig. 8. Applicant believes that amended claim 1 clearly describes the subject matter which Applicant regards as the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the indefiniteness rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4.

3. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by AAPA. “A claim is anticipated if and only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP 2131. The Office Action alleges that AAPA describes each and every element as set forth in claims 1 and 4. Applicant respectfully traverses.

As described above, Applicant has amended original claim 1 to clarify that the electromagnetic assembly comprises a ring case, a coil bobbin, and a connector arrangement. The ring case comprises a first end having an opening formed therein, and a second end having an annular groove formed therein. Moreover, the coil bobbin is disposed in the annular groove, and the coil bobbin comprises a ring member. The ring member comprises a tubular spool with a pair of annular flanges projecting radially from the tubular spool. Further, the connector arrangement comprises a body portion, and a projection portion extending from the body portion and into the opening. Specifically, the projection portion directly contacts one of the annular flanges of the ring member. See, e.g., Appl'n, Fig. 8 (emphasis added.) For example, Applicant's specification describes that an electromagnetic assembly 17 may comprise a connector arrangement 15, a coil bobbin 3, and a ring case 4. Connector arrangement 15 may comprise a projection portion 15a₃ extending from a body portion (not numbered) of connector arrangement 15. Coil bobbin 3 may comprise a ring member 1, and coil bobbin 3 may be positioned inside ring case 4. Moreover, ring case 4 may have an opening 4a formed therein, and ring member 1 may include a pair of annular flanges (not numbered but shown in Fig. 8). Specifically, opening 4a receives projection portion 15a₃ of connector 15, such that an end of projection portion 15a₃ engages/contacts one of the annular flanges of ring member 1. Projection portion 15a₃ subsequently may be fixed adhesively, e.g., by high frequency adhesion, ultrasonic

adhesion, or the like, to the end surface of ring member 1. See, e.g., Appl'n, Page 6, Lines 7-18; and Fig. 8.

In contrast, AAPA describes an electromagnetic assembly 7 comprising a connector 5, a coil bobbin 3, and a ring case 4. Connector 5 may comprise a case 5a and a projection portion 5a₃. Coil bobbin 3 may comprise a ring member 1, ring member 1 may comprise a pair of annular flanges (not numbered but shown in **Fig. 4**), and ring case 4 may have an opening 4a formed therein. Opening 4a receives projection portion 5a₃ of connector 5, such that a gap is formed between projection portion 5a₃ and the annular flange of ring member 1 which is closest to projection portion 5a₃. Moreover, case 5a is fixed to ring case 4 by a pair of hooks 10a, and coil bobbin 3 is fixed to ring case 4 by resin 13 poured into ring case 4. An O-ring 11, which is positioned between case 5a and ring case 4, prevents resin 13 from leaking outside ring case 4 through a gap formed between projection portion 5a₃ and case 5a. As such, resin 13 fills the gap between projection portion 5a₃ and ring member 1. See, e.g., Appl'n, Page 1, Lines 24-31; Page 2, Lines 16-21; and Fig. 4 (emphasis added.)

Nevertheless, because the gap is formed between projection portion 5a₃ and the annular flange of ring member 1 which is closest to projection portion 5a₃, projection portion 5a₃ does not contact either of the annular flanges of ring member 1 when projection portion 5a₃ is inserted within opening 4a. (Emphasis added.) Thus, AAPA fails at least to describe an electromagnetic assembly in which the projection portion directly contacts one of the annular flanges of the ring member, as described in amended claim 1. (Emphasis added.) Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of amended claim 1. Claim 4 depends from amended claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner also withdraw the anticipation rejection of claim 14

4. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 2 stands rejected as allegedly rendered obvious by AAPA in view of Ishimaru. Nevertheless, as described above, Applicant maintains that AAPA fails at least to describe an electromagnetic assembly in which the projection portion directly contacts one of the annular flanges of the ring member, as described in amended claim 1. Moreover, the Office Action does not allege that Ishimaru or any other reference discloses or suggests these missing elements. Claim 2 depends from amended claim 1. “If an independent claim is non-obvious

under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” MPEP 2143.03 (citations omitted). Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejection of claim 2.

CONCLUSION

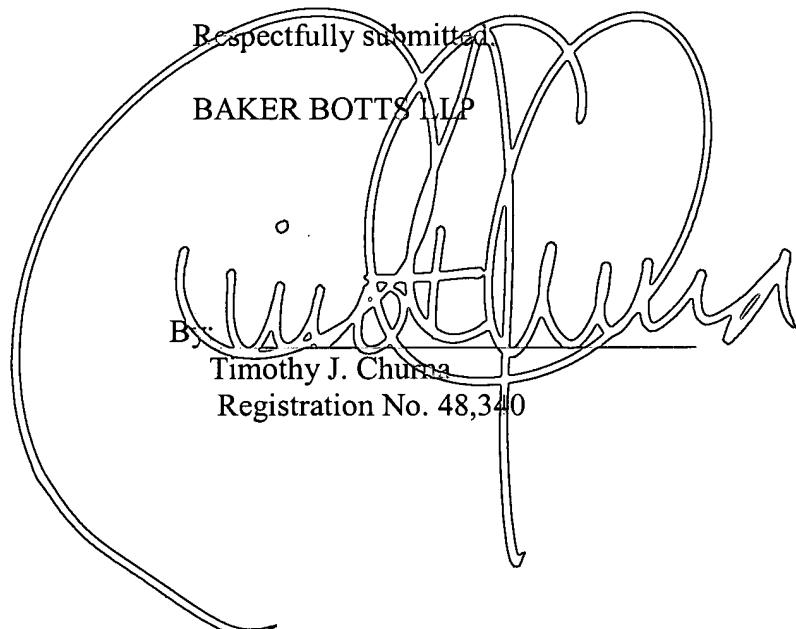
Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicant's representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity. Applicant believes that no fees are due as a result of this responsive amendment. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

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Enclosure





PATENT
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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend original claim 1, as follows:

1. (amended) An electromagnetic assembly for an electromagnetic apparatus comprising:

[a ring member comprising a tubular spool with a pair of annular flanges projecting radially from said spool;]

a ring case comprising:

a first end having an opening formed therein; and

a second end having an annular groove formed therein;

a coil bobbin [comprising] disposed in said annular groove, wherein said coil bobbin comprises:

[said] a ring member comprising a tubular spool with a pair of annular flanges projecting radially from said spool; and

an electrical wire, wherein said electrical wire is wound around said spool between said flanges; and

[a ring case comprising an annular groove, which has an open edge, said coil bobbin disposed in said annular groove, wherein said ring case has a closed end surface;]

[an opening formed through said ring case adjacent to said closed end surface of said ring case, such that at least one portion of said ring member forms a bottom of said opening;]

a connector arrangement comprising:

a body portion; and

a first projection portion extending from said body portion [of said connector arrangement,] and into said opening, wherein [said opening is adapted to receive said first projection portion, and said body portion of said connector arrangement is disposed on said ring case such that] said projection portion [is positioned within said opening, such that an end of said projection portion] directly [engages] contacts one of said annular flanges of said [at least one portion of said] ring member[; and

a first end and a second end of said electrical wire, and a first lead wire and a second lead wire of an electric circuit connected to said first and said second ends, respectively in said connector arrangement].

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